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ABSTRACT

This special newsletter edition presents highlights of the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, held in September 1997. The full text of the presidential proclamation proclaiming the week is presented. The proclamation is followed by photos of activity highlights held during the week by the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Labor, the Department of Interior, the Agency for International Development, and the Department of Energy. A listing of other federal agencies which also held commemorative events is attached. (DB)

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ED 421 043

White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Newsletter

Special Edition

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week

"This extraordinary network of institutions, more than a century old, has created a legacy of unquestioned accomplishments in fostering student success. Founded to educate African Americans in a segregated society, these colleges and universities have flourished and build an enviable record of achievement in educating America's black scientists, doctors, teachers, lawyers, artists, entrepreneurs, community and religious leaders, and other professionals. They have provided generations of students with access to highly supportive environments for learning. The experience and expertise of HBCUs make them an invaluable resource to our Nation during this period of significant change."

President Bill Clinton
September 1997

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National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We are a few short years away from the dawn of the 21st century, yet much of the challenge and change we have been anticipating is already upon us. We are competing today in a truly global economy, an economy based on information and technology as well as agriculture and industry. We are living in the age of the information revolution, the era of the World Wide Web, of daily advances in communications technology where a universe of knowledge is only a keyboard and a modem away. We are crossing the frontier into a new world, and our only map and compass in that world will be education.

We must build an educational system that prepares our young people for the jobs of the future. We must empower them with the values, experiences, and self-confidence to succeed in our diverse society. We must provide them with the knowledge and motivation to reach their full human potential—and we must leave no one behind. In devising such an educational system, we need only look to America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for a model of excellence.

This extraordinary network of institutions, more than a century old, has created a legacy of unquestioned accomplishment in fostering student success. Founded to educate African Americans in a segregated society, these colleges and universities have flourished and built an enviable record of achievement in educating America's black scientists, doctors, teachers, lawyers, artists, entrepreneurs, community and religious leaders, and other professionals. They have provided generations of students with access to highly supportive environments for learning. The experience and expertise of HBCUs make them an invaluable resource to our Nation during this period of significant change.

America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities daily demonstrate effective leadership in a multitude of ways: they develop and practice innovative academic approaches to ensure student success; they create campus programs that offer new solutions to critical social problems; they produce cutting-edge research with practical applications; and they forge strong global relationships from a myriad of international activities. Moreover, against formidable financial odds, they have persisted in keeping education affordable for the constituencies they serve, without sacrificing quality. They have never allowed scarce funding, poor educational preparation, or societal disadvantage to get in the way of their mission to educate and nurture the intellectual potential of the black community.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities have done more to make the American Dream a reality for African Americans than has any other set of institutions in our country. These institutions are poised to enter the 21st century, ready to build on this tradition of excellence, achievement, and reverence for education. We can count on them to continue to make vital contributions to our Nation's success and to ensure that America lives up to our fundamental values of equality and opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 21 through September 27, 1997, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon the people of the United States, including government officials, educators, and administrators, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their graduates.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION RICHARD RILEY KICKS OFF HBCU WEEK

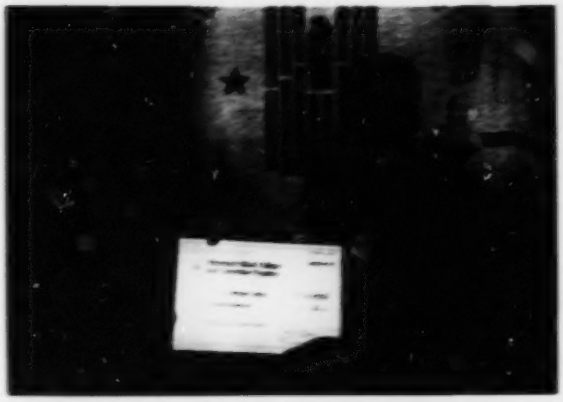
Secretary of Education Richard Riley kicked off National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week with a celebratory program at the U. S. Department of Education's headquarters in Washington, D. C. Federal activities in observance of the week were coordinated by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Secretary addresses an audience of HBCU Presidents, Chancellors and other representatives, as well as federal government and private sector officials.

Dr. Frederick Humphries discusses the accomplishments that led to Florida A&M University's selection as TIME Magazine's 1997 "College of the Year."

Presenting various aspects of the present and future focus of historically black colleges and universities are (l. to r.: Dr. Nat Irvin, President, Future Focus; Dr. Gloria Scott, President, Bennett College; Dr. Frederick Humphries, President, Florida A&M University; and Ms. Catherine W. LeBlanc, Executive Director, White House Initiative on HBCUs.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Pictured from left to right are: HUD Deputy Secretary, Dwight Robinson, and Dr. Ernest McNeally, President of Stillman College.

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced $6.5 million in grants to HBCUs for community and economic development activities as well as neighborhood revitalization efforts.

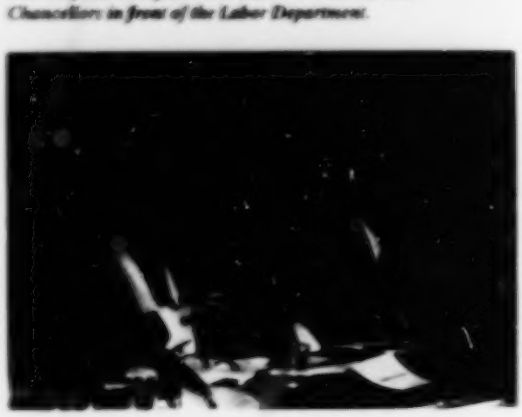
The 1997 HUD Grant Recipients were:

Arkansas Baptist College
Bennett College
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
Florida A&M University
Howard University
Jackson State University
Kentucky State University
Morris Brown College
Oakwood College
St. Augustine's College
Southern University
Stillman College
Tougaloo College
Voorhees College
Wiley College
Winston-Salem State University

SECRETARY OF LABOR ALEXIS HERMAN MEETS WITH BLACK COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

As part of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman met with presidents of more than 50 of the country's leading African American institutions of higher education at the U.S. Department of Labor headquarters. The Secretary called the meeting to explore ways that the Labor Department could form partnerships with the schools to help carry out the mission of the Department and to bolster President Clinton's commitment to the long term viability and enhancement of HBCUs.

Secretary Herman poses with HBCU Presidents and Chancellors in front of the Labor Department.



Secretary Herman is shown leading the discussion with HBCU Presidents. Seated next to her are: Dr. William Keaton, President, Arkansas Baptist College and Chairman, NAFEO Board of Directors; Dr. Lloyd Hackley, Chairman, President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs; and Ms. Catherine W. LeBlanc, Executive Director, White House Initiative on HBCUs.

THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR COMMEMORATES NATIONAL HBCU WEEK

"Groundbreakers - The Legacy of Historically Black Colleges - A Tribute to Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune"

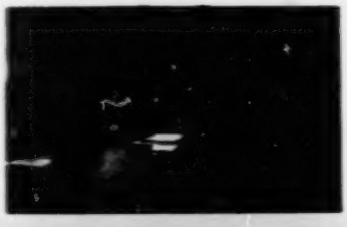
The National Park Service hosted a reception at Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune's Washington, D.C. home (*a National Historic Site*) during National HBCU Week. Sharing reminiscences of Dr. Bethune at the program were (l to r.) Florida Congresswoman Carrie Meeks, who taught at Bethune-Cookman College under Dr. Bethune; Dr. Oswald Bronson, current present of Bethune-Cookman College and former student under Dr. Bethune; and Dr. Dorothy Height, current president of the National Council of Negro Women, an organization founded by Dr. Bethune.

South Carolina Congressman James Clyburn joins officials at the U. S. Department of the Interior to discuss the Historic Preservation Bill for historically black colleges with college representatives.

Dr. Ernest Holloway, (r) President of Langston University in Oklahoma, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Matt Millenbach, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

U. S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Agency for International Development (AID) celebrated National HBCU Week by presenting an informative workshop on AID grant opportunities for the HBCU community. Over 250 campus representatives and students gathered at the U. S. Department of State to hear presentations from AID Bureaus representing Africa, Latin America, Asia and the New Emerging States (former Soviet States).



AID Workshop

Singleton McAllister (at podium), AID's General Counsel, poses with HBCU Presidents during a luncheon in their honor.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Secretary of Energy Federico F. Pena presents a check for $1.775 million to Mr. William H. Gray III, President and CEO of the College Fund/UNCF, to build and expand environmental programs at HBCUs.

L. to R: Mr. Dan Dreit, Environmental Project Director, the College Fund; Mrs. Corla Moody, Director of Economic Impact and Diversity; Mr. William H. Gray, III; and Ms. Catherine W. LeBlanc

Additional events to commemorate HBCU week were held at the following agencies:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency	- Signing Ceremony and Presentation of EPA Grants
U. S. Information Agency	- Research Roundtable Interactive Session
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	- Meeting with Deputy Secretary of HHS and HBCU Presidents
U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs	- Education Symposium Bowie State University
U. S. Department of Defense	- Forum on Research Opportunities at DoD University - Affiliated Research Centers, and Private Industry
Corporation for National Service (Americorps)	- Workshop on Grant Opportunities
National Cancer Institute	- Technical Assistance Workshop on Grant and Contracting Opportunities.

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